

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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O 301453Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, US, DR

SUBJECT: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON THE DOMINICAN
ELECTIONS

1. REP. DONALD FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE HELD A HEARING ON THE DOMINICAN ELECTIONS MAY 23.
WITNESSES WERE GREGORY B. WOLFE, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, RAUL
MANGALAPUS, FORMER SENATOR FROM THE PHILIPPINES, AND BEN
STEPHANSKY, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BOLIVIA AND CURRENTLY
WITH THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE. A
DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT TESTIFY. FRASER WAS
THE ONLY CONGRESSMAN PRESENT.

2. REP. FRASER MADE AN OPENING STATEMENT (BEING POUCHED
TO EMBASSY) IDENTIFYING THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING AS
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"TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT EVENTS THERE SHOULD AFFECT
U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC." MANGALAPUS
THEN EXPLAINED BRIEFLY HOW HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN
A VISA TO VISIT THE DR AS AN ELECTION OBSERVER FOR THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC WORLD UNION.

3. WOLFE THEN READ A STATEMENT (ALSO POUCHED) DESCRIBING

HIS EXPERIENCES AS AN OBSERVER OF THE DOMINICAN ELECTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONFERENCE. WOLFE'S STATEMENT RECOUNTED THE CONFUSION RESULTING FROM THE DOMINICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN WHAT HAD APPEARED TO BE A VERY ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL ELECTION PROCESS. HE REPORTED THAT THE PRD WAS WELL AHEAD WHEN THE COUNTING WAS INTERRUPTED. WOLFE QUOTED OAS OBSERVER GALO PLAZA AS DESCRIBING THE RESULT AS "A LANDSLIDE."

4. STEPHANSKY WAS THE FINAL WITNESS. HE HAD NO PREPARED STATEMENT. HE QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM A REFORMISTA PARTY CAMPAIGN BROCHURE PUBLISHED AND CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT THE DR ON PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S SEPTEMBER VISIT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ALLEGEDLY CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS. THE QUOTES MENTIONED BALAGUER'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING FREE ELECTIONS, HOW BALAGUER AND CARTER SHARE COMMON IDEALS, ETC. STEPHANSKY SAID THE BROCHURE HAD CLEARLY BECOME A CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, HE THEN QUOTED FROM A SEPTEMBER 10 DOMINICAN NEWSPAPER REPORT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE BALAGUER SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE IN THE DOMINICAN EMBASSY, IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO FREQUENT DOMINICAN MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN PAST ELECTIONS. STEPHANSKY ALSO QUOTED FROM THE OAS OBSERVERS' REPORT.

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5. STEPHANSKY THEN ARGUED THAT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF BALAGUER'S TACTIC OF IDENTIFYING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS OMISSION FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENT NOT TO HAVE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE ELECTION INTERRUPTION. STEPHANSKY SAID THAT, AT LEAST IN RECENT MONTHS, THE USG HAD BEEN STRICTLY NEUTRAL AND CERTAINLY NO ONE COULD CLAIM THE DOMINICAN MILITARY'S INTERRUPTION OF THE VOTE COUNT HAD BEEN PROVOKED BY FOREIGN INTERVENTION. HE ADDED THAT THE PRD WAS IN NO WAY ALIGNED WITH THE SMALL DOMINICAN COMMUNIST PARTY, BUT THAT IF THE PRD WERE CHEATED OUT OF A VICTORY THIS TIME THE RESULTS COULD WELL BE DISASTROUS FOR THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN THAT COUNTRY.

6. STEPHANSKY ALSO TERMED THE TIMING OF AMBASSADOR YOST'S OFFICIAL RECEPTION AS CONTRIVED BY THE GODR TO ENSURE THAT THE PICTURES OF YOST AND BALAGUER WOULD APPEAR IN THE PRESS ON THE MORNING OF THE ELECTION, REINFORCING THE CARTER/BALAGUER LINKAGE. STEPHANSKY ENDED HIS REMARKS BY RECOMMENDING THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR YOST TO APPEAR BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO TESTIFY ABOUT EVENTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

7. FRASER ASKED WHETHER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE

DOMINICAN MILITARY WOULD NOT BE INTOLERABLE IF IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE ELECTION HAD BEEN FRAUDULENT. STEPHANSKY AGREED, ADDING THAT THE DOMINICAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE, CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THE COUNTRY. HE QUESTIONED WHAT PURPOSE IT SERVED, AND HE NOTED THAT OUR MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM WITH THE DR WAS OUR SECOND LARGEST IN THE HEMISPHERE. WOLFE SAID HE SAW NO REASON FOR LARGE MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN POOR CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.

8. FRASER CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WAS LEAVING OPEN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE CALLED TO TESTIFY AT A LATER HEARING. VANCE

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